

Carex lasiocarpa - Scirpus cespitosus - Rhynchospora capillacea / Andromeda glaucophylla Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Wiregrass Sedge - Deerhair Bulrush - Limestone Beaksedge / Bog Rosemary Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Boreal Calcareous Seepage Fen
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Saturated temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.m)
ALLIANCE	CAREX LASIOCARPA SATURATED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is uncommon, and widely scattered throughout the park.

Globally

This community is reported from northern Minnesota, Manitoba, and northern Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This community occupies wet depressions at elevations from 601 to 770 feet. Soils are very poorly drained peats, sands, or mucks that are saturated to permanently flooded.

Globally

Stands occur on shallow or deep peaty soils in areas of calcareous discharge. The surface water may be circumneutral (pH 6.8 - 8.0), with high concentrations of dissolved salts that often form a marl precipitate. The discharge water is low in oxygen, which is believed to be important in inhibiting dense vegetation growth, and favoring heliophytic vascular and moss species (Minnesota NHP 1993).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Myrica gale</i>
Graminoid	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> , <i>Carex rostrata</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> , <i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i> , <i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i> , <i>Scirpus cespitosus</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Carex lasiocarpa, *Carex rostrata*

Globally

Carex lasiocarpa, *Muhlenbergia glomerata*, *Rhynchospora capillacea*, *Scirpus cespitosus*, *Andromeda polifolia*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This boreal calcareous seepage fen is a wetland dominated by sedges. *Carex lasiocarpa* is the most abundant sedge (average 68% cover), *Carex rostrata* is also common (average 20% cover). Other characteristic herbs are *Utricularia intermedia* and *Menyanthes trifoliata*. The most abundant shrub is *Myrica gale* (average 4% cover). *Sphagnum* spp. are common in the groundlayer (average 13% cover).

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by an open graminoid layer of sedge and rush species. The dominant species include *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Muhlenbergia glomerata*, *Rhynchospora capillacea* and *Scirpus cespitosus*. Other associates include the dwarf-shrubs

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Isle Royale National Park

Andromeda polifolia and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, and the herbs *Sarracenia purpurea* (Minnesota NHP 1993).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G2Q. There are probably fewer than 100 occurrences, and there may be fewer than 20 occurrences of this community rangewide. Currently there are two occurrences documented from Minnesota, and several undocumented occurrences on Isle Royale in Michigan. This community is reported from Michigan (unranked), Minnesota (where it is ranked S2), Manitoba (S?), and Ontario (S?). It is reported from three ecoregion subsections: the Lake Agassiz Lowlands subsection, the Border Lakes subsection, and the Isle Royale subsection.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002496

MAP UNITS 44

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

- Harris, A. G., S. C. McMurray, P. W. C. Uhlig, J. K. Jeglum, R. F. Foster, and G. D. Racey. 1996. Field guide to the wetland ecosystem classification for northwestern Ontario. Ont. Minist. Nat. Resour., Northwest Sci. Tech. Field Guide FG-01. Thunder Bay, Ont. 74 p.
- Minnesota Natural Heritage Program. 1993. Minnesota's native vegetation: A key to natural communities. Ver. 1.5. Minn. Dep. Nat. Resour., Nat. Heritage Prog. St. Paul, Minn. 110 p.